

The symbolic gesture to have Republicans and Democrats sit together at Tuesday's State of the Union address has been endorsed by 60 members of Congress – 47 Dems, 12 Reps and one independent – but none of Orange County's House members, according to a Washington Post story.

Democratic Sen. Mark Udall launched the effort with the hope of contributing to a more civil and bipartisan atmosphere in Congress.

I contacted the offices of Orange County's six House members, asking what they thought of the idea. None of the four who responded were opposed, but none were particularly promoting the idea.

"Open seating is a great policy as long as there is a seat left when I get there," quipped Rep. Ed Royce, R-Fullerton. "My real interest is in seeing if the president is going to take to heart the lesson of the November election and truly put forward a budget to reduce the debt."

Rebecca Rudman, spokeswoman for Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Costa Mesa Ken Calvert, R-Corona: "He doesn't have any specific plans for seats, but he's certainly open to the mixed seating idea. He has plenty of friends on both sides of the aisle."

Caroline Hogan, spokeswoman for Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Santa Ana. "She's supportive of the mixed seating idea – not sure who she's planning to sit with, however."

Christopher Bognanno, spokesman for **Rep. John Campbell**, R-Irvine: "**Congressman Campbell tends to get down to the floor a few minutes before it starts and, due to the fact that some Members tend to arrive very early and stake out 'choice' seats, he will simply look for an open seat. He has no idea who he will be sitting next to until he walks onto the floor, and that has always been the case with him.**"